DOCKET NO: 241227US0SRD DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

AL ATTEICATION OF

MINAKO HIJIKATA, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: CARRIER FOR GENE DETECTION :

AND ITS USE FOR DETECTING

VALIDITY OF INTERFERON THERAPY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

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Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.